

New law authorizes the secretary of DHH to immediately suspend the license of a freestanding inpatient psychiatric hospital if the applicant or licensee is in violation of the law or rules and regulations and the secretary determines the violation poses an imminent or immediate threat to the health, welfare, or safety of a client or patient.

Provides the immediate suspension shall take place five days after receipt of the written notice by the freestanding inpatient psychiatric hospital. Further provides that DHH shall assist the hospital with discharge planning, which shall address transition, relocation, and transportation issues.

Provides for the notification, appeal, and injunctive relief process for providers who have a license suspended by the secretary.

Limits the effect of ownership or management prohibition to any owner that had direct knowledge of the practices which led to the immediate suspension or any on-site administrator of the licensee.

Effective upon signature of the governor (May 25, 2012).

(Adds R.S. 40:2110(D) and (E))